The use of the infinitive

To - infinitive

1. Verbs followed by infinitive with to

afford agree attempt arrange be able (to) be about (to) appear be up (to) can't wait consent dare decide beg care claim choose deserve expect fail happen hope hesitate intend learn manage prepare make up (her/his) mind plan need offer pretend promise propose refuse tend threaten struggle teach turn out (to) seem would like used (to) volunteer wish wait want

Example: We couldn't afford to buy a new car.

I hope to see you again

2. Verbs followed by an object and infinitive with to

advise	e allow	ask	beg	cause	challenge	con	vince	dare
enable	encourage	exp	ect	forbid	force	help	hire	instruct
invite	oblige	10	der	permit	persuade	rem	ind	require
t	each (how)	tell	urge	want	warn		would l	ike

Example: He told me to be there before midnight

He wanted <u>us</u> to help them They forced me to stay

3. After adjectives and adverbs:

Example: It's interesting to learn languages.

After adjective + for object / object pronoun + to -infinitive:

It's common for young people to study abroad

- Adjectives with enough and too:

He is too young to drive

They are not old enough to get a driving licence.

4. After interrogative pronouns:

Example: I didn't know what to do.

5. To show purpose:

Example: I went to Paris to learn French.

Infinitive without to

1. After modal verbs: can, could, may, might, should, will, would... (except: ought to)

Example: He can <u>run</u> thirty kilometres a day

You mustn't drink alcohol

2. After verbs such as: had better, would rather

Example: You'd better go to the dentist.

I'd rather stay at home

3. After: make, let, help

Example: My parents don't **let** me get home later than midnight.

She makes me do everything

She **helps** young people get a job

MAKE: If it is in the passive voice the infinitive takes TO:

I was made to do the washing up.

HELP: can be used with or without to:

She **helps** young people get a job She **helps** young people to get a job

The uses of the gerund

1. After certain verbs such as:

admit avoid be worth can't bear can't help can't stand carry on cease give up consider delay deny detest enjoy fancy feel like finish look forward to mind/ would mind keep (on) imagine involve miss practise postpone practise put off recommend resist risk spend suggest

Example: When you **finish** <u>doing</u> your homework, you'll be able to go to the park.

I **recommend** <u>visiting</u> the cathedral.

 All PHRASAL VERBS which are followed by another verb are followed by gerunds:

I gave up smoking last year

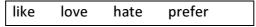
I look forward to seeing you again.

 Gerund after these expressions: it's (not) worth, it's no good, it's no use, be/get used to

Example: I am used to getting up early.

It's no use trying to persuade me.

- Some verbs such as:



They are usually followed by **gerund** in British English but they can also be used with the infinitive with TO.

LIKE uses the gerund to talk generally and the to-infinitive when we talk specifically.

I like swimming. (enjoy)

I like to swim first thing in the morning when there aren't many people. (I think this is a good idea or it's good for me. It is a habit)

In American English, the infinitive is used more often than the gerund for both meanings.

HATE, LOVE and **PREFER** are normally used with both forms with no change of meaning.

I prefer cycling / to cycle to work.

When **like**, **love**, **hate and prefer** are preceded by **WOULD**, they always take TO-INFINITIVE:

I would like to eat out tonight.

2. After prepositions and connectors:

Example: She is **good at** <u>learning</u> languages.

Despite being late, we decided to leave.

3. As a subject:

Example: Smoking is bad for your health

Verbs followed by infinitive with to or gerund

1. With no change in meaning

start	begin	continue	be accustomed to	
attempt	intend	be committed to	can't bear	

Example: It started to rain / It started raining.

2. Be careful with:

allow, advise, forbid, permit

Example:

- I advised taking the car. (no object)
 I advised you to take the car (with object)
- We don't allow smoking (no object)
 We don't allow people to smoke (with object)
 - Students are not allowed to use mobile phones (BE ALLOWED TO)

See, watch, hear

Example:

- I heard the boy **telling** the story. (gerund: we observe part of the action)
- I heard the boy **tell** the whole story.(infinitive without to: we observe the whole action from beginning to end)

3. With change in meaning

Gerund	To-infinitive	
He stopped <u>smoking</u> last year. (dejó de fumar)	He stopped <u>to smoke</u> . (Paró para fumar)	
It means that he finished doing that activity.	He stopped an activity in order to do another one. (For example he stopped working in order to have a cigarette.)	
I remember <u>visiting</u> this place with my grandmother.	Remember to lock the door.	
The gerund refers to a previous experience in the past. When you remember you go backwards to search that memory.	The to-infinitive refers to an action that must be done. You remember first and then you act.	
	He stopped smoking last year. (dejó de fumar) It means that he finished doing that activity. I remember visiting this place with my grandmother. The gerund refers to a previous experience in the past. When you remember you go backwards to search	

Gerunds and infinitives

Forget	I'll never forget going to school on my own for the first time.	Don't forget to send the letter.		
	It's usually used with a negative form to go back to the past to a memorable experience.	It's a reminder of an action that must be done.		
Regret	I regret sending my daughter to that school.	I regret <u>to inform</u> you that you were not accepted.		
	With the gerund we refer to a past action which was done. We wish we hadn't done something.	Regret means that you are sorry about the information you are going to say. It is used to give bad news in a formal and polite way.		
Try	"I need to lose weight" " Try exercising and eating healthy food"	I'll try to finish this for tomorrow morning.		
	With a gerund it means to experiment with different methods to see if something works.	We use the to-infinitive to show that we make an effort to achieve something.		
Need	This room needs painting (to be painted)	"You need <u>to lose</u> weight"		
	It is a passive construction.	It is followed by to-infinitive to show obligation. You must / have to do it.		
Go on	Please don't stop, go on showing us your photos.	When I finish shopping, I think I'll go on to see a film.		
	Gerund is used to mean "continue"	To -infinitive implies a change of activity.		
Mean	Being a footballer means <u>practising</u> every day. (significa, implica) Means = involve, imply, stand for	I mean to work hard at university (tener la intención de) To- infinitive is used to show intention		